

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY COMMEMORATED WITH FOCUS ON COLLECTIVE EFFORTS



On August 18th, World Humanitarian Day was marked at a national level in Mai-Diminet, centered around the theme of 'Collective Humanitarianism: Social Justice, Self-Reliance, and Community Participation.' The event saw participation from senior Government officials, Ministers, members of UN offices in Eritrea, and others who planted tree seedlings to emphasize the fight against desertification.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Mihreteab Fesehaye, the Director General of Social Welfare at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, highlighted that World Humanitarian Day is a tribute to those affected by natural and human-made disasters, serving as a reminder to renew the

commitment to humanity.

Mr. Mihreteab emphasized that despite numerous efforts to mitigate risks from natural and human-made hazards, the global response to humanitarian crises has often been inadequate and imbalanced. The repercussions include ongoing suffering due to conflicts, displacement, lack of social justice, as well as natural disasters like droughts, floods, heatwaves, wildfires, and pests, leading to hunger, malnutrition, and disease.

Mr. Aeneas Chuma, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Eritrea, acknowledged the challenging contemporary humanitarian landscape, marked by factors like climate change, polarization, eroding trust in

multilateralism, and a weakening of international humanitarian law. He emphasized the importance of delivering services guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and operational independence.

World Humanitarian Day has been observed globally since 2003.

Full text of statements of both the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare as well as the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Eritrea are on page 5 and 7.

YOUTH INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY AT NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2023

The National Festival 2023 provided a compelling showcase of the boundless potential of the youth through their creative and inventive materials on display. This exhibition bore witness to the remarkable aptitude for innovation harbored by the younger generation.

Visitors at the festival emphasized the significance of directing attention and resources towards youth development, acknowledging the undeniable talent demonstrated by the youth in their innovative and inventive endeavors.

Those who participated in the display expressed their gratitude for the invaluable opportunity to showcase their skills and creative potential. The positive feedback received from festival attendees further reinforced their belief in their capabilities.

The festival's display not only celebrated the creativity of the youth but also underscored the imperative of nurturing their innovative spirit for the betterment of society.

CAPTURING GENERATIONAL HISTORY: PHOTO EXHIBITION UNVEILS ERITREA'S JOURNEY

The National Festival 2023, in collaboration with the Ministries of Information and Defense, has unveiled a compelling photo exhibition that chronicles the history of Eritrean generations. These photographs, displayed at the festival, illuminate the nation's evolution over time.

Mr. Ermias Seium, a member of the Promotion and Information Unit at the Ministry of Defense, highlighted the potent role of photography in transmitting a society's culture and history to successive generations. He expressed optimism that the showcased images will significantly contribute to this important legacy.

Mr. Tazaz Abraha, the head of the Photography branch at the Ministry of Information, emphasized that the exhibited photos underscore

the unity and integration between the public and defense forces in executing national development programs, as well as thwarting both hidden and overt external threats.

Visitors, deeply moved by the exhibition's content, praised its depiction of Eritrea's journey and urged for similar displays to be organized within the country and abroad. Such efforts would empower nationals at home and abroad to fully grasp the richness of their past and present history.

This joint initiative by the Ministries of Information and Defense encapsulates Eritrea's history from 1979 to 2023. Through these images, the nation's enduring narrative is vibrantly brought to life, allowing observers to traverse time and connect with the shared history.



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS THEIR VITAL ROLE

In a bid to underscore the pivotal role of women in national development programs and critical issues, Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, the President of the National Union of Eritrean Women, delivered an enlightening seminar to female personnel of the Eastern Command of the Eritrean Defense Forces in Dekemhare.

During the seminar, Ms.

Tekea offered a comprehensive overview of the history and objectives of the national union, highlighting the active engagement of Eritrean women in various national undertakings, and shedding light on the ongoing struggle for gender equality.

Ms. Tekea lauded the heroic contributions made by Eritrean women across the spectrum of

the nation's development, during the fight for independence, and in safeguarding national sovereignty. She also underscored the noteworthy role played by female graduates from diverse educational institutions in the nation-building process.

Furthermore, Ms. Tekea called upon the participants to enhance their overall capabilities and engagement in national affairs. She stressed that although significant progress has been achieved, more concerted efforts are required to fully ensure the equal standing of women in society.

The seminar participants expressed their gratitude for the organizing of such a session and advocated for its continuation, recognizing its importance in empowering women and fostering their active participation in Eritrea's development journey.



OPINION

Words Matter: Double Standards in Mainstream Media

By Afabet Gebretinsae

In the past few weeks, hundreds of thousands of Eritreans throughout the diaspora came together for the Annual Eritrean Cultural Festival, held at various metropolitan hubs across Europe and North America. This year, the festival—which dates back half a century—was hosted in Seattle, Stockholm, Toronto, Edmonton, and Giessen.

In order to fully comprehend the ethos of the Eritrean Cultural Festival, it is critical to first examine the circumstances behind its inception. Eritreans are a communal people. It is an essential thread in the elaborate and colorful labyrinth that is our cultural fabric. Communalism -. i.e. culture and ethos of reconciling individual interests and aspirations with that of the large community – is how Eritreans were able to—against all odds—mobilize against and prevail over a much larger and well-resourced aggressor. In

short, to separate an Eritrean from his community is the equivalent of cutting a branch from a tree; a slow metaphysical death.

In the early 1970s, pioneering Eritrean immigrants – those who escaped from the atrocities and persecution of the occupationist Ethiopian regime recognized a desperate need for cultural reconnection and community among the diaspora. Many Eritreans who had settled in Europe and North America in hopes of broader economic opportunity were facing xenophobia, racism, language barriers, socioeconomic marginalization, and a substantial education gap. To exacerbate these precarious conditions, many Eritrean immigrants were now—for the first time ever—separated from their families, their land, and their community. As such, members of the diaspora began organizing festivals as way for Eritreans to reconnect, and experience the warmth of their people in an otherwise foreign and inhospitable land as well as to follow events and establish bridges with the liberation struggle back home. While the Eritrean festival has evolved over the years to include cultural exhibits, musical performances, and dancing, the spirit of the festival remains unchanged.

This year, the festival was hit by a violent wave of attacks, carried out by an obscure rogue group bent on acts of vandalism and terror. This group—which claims to oppose the Eritrean government—has preponderant membership of non-Eritreans politically affiliated with the TPLF and uses violence and intimidation against unarmed, and peaceful festival goers. This rogue group destroyed tents housing cultural and historical exhibits; gruesomely beat citizens with metal poles—leaving one elderly gentleman with his head bashed open; mercilessly stabbed festival participants; and recklessly set attendees' vehicles ablaze.

of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims,” why then are the gangs who terrorized our cultural festival not classified as such? Why are they being hailed as “activists” and “defenders of human rights?” This is not human rights. This is textbook terrorism.

It is quite hypocritical for news outlets, including Agence France Presse (AFP) and France24, to dub these actors “activists” and “defenders of human rights.”

For example, when French citizens took to the streets to protest higher fuel taxes in 2019, the AFP derided the Yellow Vest protests as “rebellion.” France24 characterized the movement as an “insurgency,” that was “largely shapeless, leaderless, and with no clear ideological bent.” When protests shook the United States following the tragic murder of George Floyd, news outlets called the demonstrators—a large contingent of which were African Americans—“thugs.”

The instances cited above do



vandalism and terror perpetrated against peaceful Eritrean Festivals by the rogue group in question. The latter is bereft of economic or civil rights issues.

The non-symmetrical comparison has been invoked so as to amplify the hypocrisy of certain mainstream media outlets. The unfathomable fact is protesters who oppose police brutality and economic inequality are labeled “thugs” and “insurgents”, while ruthless, anti-Eritrean hooligans are championed as heroes.

Regrettably, it appears that this selective nomenclature used to classify various “protest activities” is rooted in shifting political agendas rather than grounded, objective reporting. Furthermore, it appears that any display of dissent regardless of constitutionality or legality, that poses a perceived threat to the stability of Western nations is swiftly condemned. Yet brutal

community are hailed as heroic.

Additionally, several outlets have audaciously referred to the assault as “clashes.” This is a gross misrepresentation of what actually occurred. “Clashes” imply that the other party fought back, but this could not be further from the truth. In all instances, the rogue group violently attacked unsuspecting Festival goers.

Words matter and the media have a grave responsibility to report ethically and accurately, devoid of political or ideological bias.

Let one thing be known: the recent violent acts by rogue groups have nothing to do with dissident views or the expression of such through nonviolent protests. In this perspective, Eritrean communities will not tolerate bullying, intimidation, or acts of terrorism against peaceful and defenseless festival-goers.



not in fact have moral or legal equivalence with the acts of

attacks that pose a very clear and existential threat to our

Justice will be served.

Awet n' Hafash!

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SpotLight

Festival Eritrea: A Cultural Heritage

Simon Weldemichael

Having been suspended due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the annual national festival, Festival Eritrea, is being held at the usual venue, the Expo grounds in Asmara. The festival, which has been gaining in popularity over the years, was declared officially open last Sunday, August 13, and will last until August 20.

Visitors at the festival get to experience Eritrea without having to travel all over the country. Eritrea's ancient and cotemporary history, everyday life of the nine ethnic groups of Eritrea, including their food and drinks, traditional

serves the purpose of strengthening national identity.

The Cultural and Natural Heritage Proclamation No. 177/2015 of Eritrea defines cultural heritage as "any tangible or intangible resource which is the product of human creativity and labor in the discernible historical times describing and witnessing to such creativity and labor because of its scientific, archeological, historical, cultural, artistic, architectural or aesthetic value or content ultimately bearing the identity and/or collective memory of peoples or communities." The Eritrean society has many valuable physical artefacts and intangible



The celebration of arts and culture has contributed to the development of common understanding among the people. Eritreans from different corners of the country and the diaspora come to observe their cultural heritage.

The various practices, expressions, knowledge, skills, and other aspects of cultural heritage transmitted from generation to generation and are constantly recreated by the people

their culture, experiences, and knowledge. These events are part of the rich intangible cultural heritage of the country.

Eritreans are proud of their rich culture, which Festival Eritrea helps to promote. The festival helps coordinate, promote and present the very best of the country's arts and culture. A key characteristic of the festival is the sense of belonging to the community that it makes you feel. That is why it is important to conserve the cultural assets and pass them on to future generations, which helps not only to preserve the past but also secure the future.

Festival Eritrea can be regarded as an intangible cultural heritage



dances and houses, the natural and cultural heritage of the six regions and the various firms operating in the country are presented to the public throughout the week.

The history of Festival Eritrea began at Bologna, Italy, in 1984. The festival at Bologna brought together Eritreans who were living in exile in Europe and other parts of the world to celebrate their culture and history, to learn about the developments in the armed struggle, to express their national unity and to renew their pledge to support the liberation struggle without any reservation. It became a symbol of mass participation in the struggle for independence.

Despite the long centuries of colonialism and suppression, Eritreans have been able to preserve their culture. Their cultural identity has withstood cultural domination and become a critical element for national identity. Festival Eritrea contributes to the shaping of national identity by reflecting the past in a modern way. Although cultural heritage is about the past, the part of the past that has been selected and presented at the festival

attributes that are inherited from past generations.

Festival Eritrea acts as a forum for Eritreans to meet and celebrate their culture. It could be a vital force in the revival and development of cultural activities. Various talents are brought into light at the festival, including dancing, music, painting, crafts and oral tradition.

The festival provides an opportunity to celebrate and enjoy the multiculturalism and diversity of the country. The national charter and other important national documents acknowledge that no society can flourish without culture, nor can any meaningful development be sustainable without it. There is an intrinsic relationship between culture and development. The National Charter of Eritrea states that "a national culture is the foundation of a developed economy and a modern political system. No society has become modern without developing its culture."

The richness of Eritrea's cultural diversity enhances its national cohesion. Eritreans carve out a strong and vibrant national identity that instils pride and patriotism.

in response to various conditions. The festival provides people with a sense of identity and continuity, and promotes cultural diversity and human creativity.

The Eritrean society has plenty of highly revered cultural and religious festivals that provide opportunities to the people in terms of sharing

that reflects the culture of the society in its totality, with all its activities and rituals. And it is important to safeguard the national festival to be able to pass it on to future generations by conserving its original characteristics. The process of safeguarding should include not only the preservation of objects but also evolving values, knowledge, and traditions in the society.





Inventors and Technologies: Making our Lives Easier

Luwam Kahsay H.

Two days earlier, when I told a friend of mine that I wasn't able to visit everything on display at the Expo grounds, where Festival Eritrea is being held after it had been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he insisted that I should check out the education corner. He said I would be stunned by what the youth, who are intent on making our lives, and probably the world's, easier through the things they have made.

In the evening, I was there. I was so eager to see that I didn't even want to waste any time. At the entrance to the hall, two boxes of metal attracted my attention. When I got closer to the boxes, I saw this petit boy who started right away introducing himself and giving an explanation about the inventions. Meron Tesfamaryam and Naod Debesay, 10th graders, and Mekerti Tsehaye and Sina Ukbit, 11th graders, have invented several things based on their lessons at school.

The "water spiller" project they have made is designed as an automatic tap. With the help of an ultrasonic sensor, it spills water for almost 20 seconds in response to a motion. There is a drying fun for use after one has washed up their hands. The fun turns on when you show a motion to the ultrasonic sensor specially made for it. The students said they came across this idea during

the Covid-19 pandemic. After looking for some information on the internet hoping to contribute towards efforts to deal with the pandemic, they saw this invention and agreed to make it using materials they could find.

The young students submitted their proposal to one of the associates of the Robotics Center, Eri-Soc, and got the materials they needed. "Our aim is to avoid direct contact of people with things that can spread the virus. With the project we hope to help reduce the spread of any transmissible disease. For the future we intend to increase the efficiency of the tap and try to install it at public places so that it can play a role in protecting citizens' health," says Meron.

The young students didn't stop here. They went on to explain to me about the second big box -- "text or voice activated light bulb and key to a door lock". Naod told me this project is associated with lighting a bulb and unlocking the door using text or voice instead of a switch and a key respectively. "The text or voice is sent from a mobile phone using an application called Dabble. This application works with Bluetooth connection," adds Naod. According to Sina and her partners the objective of this project is dual. It helps avoid direct contact with material that can expose us to illness and minimize our worries in case we lose our keys. As Bluetooth



Meron, Naod, Mekerti and Sina with their water spiller automatic tap they designed

connection works only within short distance they plan to modify it so that it becomes operational

students, I encountered another three amazing kids -- Elilta Temesgen, Semira Fitwi and Siem

Engineering graduate. Filmon said, "These kids are members of the Robotics Center, which is part of the Technology of Engineering and Mathematics in the UK." He added that the center has 13 voluntary teachers and 122 outstanding students from different schools. The teachers have regular assessment methods and follow ups in terms of discipline and academic performance of their students. The students are categorized in three levels. Level one is made up of 8th grade students who study the basics, including the ethical part, and the other two levels are more advanced ones in all their aspects.



from long distance.

Two steps away from the

Bereket – and their breath taking invention. As we all know solar panels use sun light as a source of energy to generate electricity from where they are installed. But these young students have made something new.

Semira says, "Most modules are rigid, fixed and made to face the south direction but this light tracking robot (due to its flexibility) helps us to maintain and gain high amount of light by rotating its direction equally or directly with the movement of the sun, from sun rise to sun set." Elilta adds that they plan to develop it to an automatically adjustable solar panel. It took them three months to complete the project.

Curious to know how these kids have been able to do the amazing projects, I immediately went ahead and met their instructor, Filmon Habte, a Computer

As Filmon said the center is ready to expand its roots to the remaining regions of the country. So far they have started giving lessons in Massawa by sending members of the center. Some of the students were present at the exhibition. Filmon concluded by saying that the center wouldn't have reached this stage if it hadn't been for the assistance of the Eritrean community living in the UK, the Ministry of Education, Eri-Soc Company, UNICEF, and other interested parties. He reminded interested parties and parents to send their children to visit their center as it is open the whole year.

I would have kept on writing about the amazing inventions of the kids, but, as my friend did, I would rather invite you to check it out and be witness of the world of technology they are growing up in. Seeing is believing!



Elilta, Semira and Siem with their light tracking robot

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

Honorable Government and PFDJ Officials

Distinguished representatives of our development partners

Ladies and Gentlemen,

World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is commemorated annually on the 19th of August. It is a day dedicated to honor those affected, injured, or who lost their lives due to natural and human-made disasters. This is also a day when people renew their promise to humanity.

This year, World Humanitarian

Day is commemorated in Eritrea under the theme: 'Collective Humanitarianism' through social justice, self-reliance, and community participation approach." The marking of the occasion at Mai Dimnet by undertaking tree seedlings planting activities is intended to demonstrate the environmental protection efforts being made to combat climate change and desertification as one of the means to avert humanitarian disasters. On behalf of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, I would like to thank you for participating in this momentous event.

to hunger, malnutrition and disease. Moreover, the increase in disparity between the poor and rich, depletion of natural resources and environmental devastation continue to be aggravating the poverty and insecurity of the living conditions of people globally.

In order to mitigate the humanitarian crises that continue to threaten humanity, there is a need for heightened concerted efforts based on collective commitment to the principles of social justice, self-reliance, human dignity and welfare.

participation and mutual support are fundamental traits that have been established and firmly rooted in Eritrea's cultural and societal norms. The capacity to generate collective resolutions to individual and common challenges and problems, without prioritizing personal gain identifies the distinctive characteristics of Eritrean society. Furthermore, caring for and supporting the vulnerable and needy segment of the society are inherent qualities of the Eritrean people. This cultural heritage is glorified through the folktales and proverbs of all ethnic groups.



thousands of persons, comprising orphans, unattended children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, afflicted by both natural and human-induced adverse calamities. This has been the cornerstone that enabled them to build self-reliant livelihoods. The legacy of this historic principles lives to this day.

This humanitarian principle of the EPLF had not been limited to its people, but also extended in the handling of the Ethiopian Prisoners of war, who were disregarded by their Government and by the international humanitarian community. The EPLF treated these prisoners with honor and impartiality, complying with the provisions of the Geneva Convention. Moreover, it released and repatriated the prisoners to their homeland based on its unilateral accord. This remains an inherent true image of the political and humanitarian policies underlying the actions of the GoSE in response to any arising humanitarian challenges.

The commitment, optimism and positive thinking that is sourced and developed from culture and experience, is well magnified and continued with

full traction after independence too. Leveraging and using the GoSE and PFDJ national charter, macro and sectoral policies as roadmap coupled with extended community participation, the Government has been working towards collective humanitarianism, social justice and self-reliance.

As part of the safety-net and building of the people's resilience against humanitarian crises, the government makes significant investment in eradicating illiteracy, elevating awareness and widely disseminating education among the citizens, as well as ensuring universal access to free and compulsory education and health care services across all regions. Strategic environmental interventions aimed at soil and water conservation, afforestation, terracing, as well as the construction of reservoirs and dams and infrastructural development, have yielded tangible results in the protection of the Eritrean people from being afflicted by devastating humanitarian conditions.

In pursuit of enhancing employment opportunities, citizens are being empowered with business start-up support and equipped with technical and professional skills training. To alleviate the challenges faced by vulnerable groups of the society, community-centered initiatives and approaches are being put into effect, yielding notable positive changes. This constructive trajectory as always needs to be sustainable requires as before collective, coordinated and resilient endeavors.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare urges all to uphold collective humanitarianism values and abide by the principles of fairness, to cultivate lasting peace and social equity, and foster collective humanitarianism efforts, while harnessing our internal capacities and potentials.

I extend my gratitude to those who organized and provided support for this event.

"Collective Humanitarianism' through social justice, self-reliance, and community participation"

**Eternal glory to our martyrs!
Victory to the Masses!
19th August 2023**



However, in order to give lasting results, it has to be aligned with sustainable development programs.

The African, i.e. Eritrean tradition of extended household and family structure, upholds human dignity and give high value and respect to human right. Core principle of community

Throughout the armed struggle for independence, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), drawing from the cultural ethos and values of the Eritrean populace while harnessing its internal dynamics, had been fully committed to humanitarian and human rights principles. This was expressed by the support it extended to the hundreds of

Human beings are continually exposed to natural and human-made hazards. Several interventions have been made to avoid these risks. However, the response to these humanitarian crises unfolding everywhere in this world, have lacked completeness and balance. People continue to suffer from wars, displacement and lack of social justice, as well as natural disasters in the form of drought, floods, heat waves, wildfires and pests and exposed





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UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator's Message for 2023 World Humanitarian Day

Your Excellency Minister of Labour and Human Welfare, Leul Gebreab

Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Senior Officials of the Government of the State of Eritrea

*Heads of UN agencies and other UN staff
Our Media Partners
Distinguished Guests*

It is my honor and privilege to be with you all here today on the occasion of the 2023 World Humanitarian Day and delighted to be back.

Each year on this date, we advocate for the survival, well-being and dignity of all people affected by crisis, natural, man-made. We also promote the safety and security of all humanitarian aid workers around the world who sacrifice a lot to save lives. The day was originally established by the UN General Assembly to commemorate humanitarian workers killed in an attack on the UN headquarters in Iraq in 2003.

To this end, may I call on all present here to observe a minute of silence to remember all humanitarian workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Honorable Minister

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Every year, the United Nations encourage all Member States to observe the World Humanitarian Day in their countries under

a specific theme. This year's theme builds on the metaphor 'No Matter What' to show that we stand shoulder to shoulder with the communities we serve, no matter where, no matter who and No Matter What. It also shows the value, importance, and effectiveness of working together and the importance of the principles that guide our humanitarian work.

Humanitarianism is not new to Eritrea. We note that Eritrea has sought to unpack humanitarian work and link it practically to the basic principles that guide Eritrea's development path as a country. The theme picked by the Government to mark this day 'Collective Humanitarianism' through social justice, self-reliance, and community participation' is quite appropriate.

This theme simplifies the importance and positive impact of humanitarianism. We are reminded that it is our collective responsibility to be humane, to practice social justice and to leave no one behind in our work i.e. to effectively serve all humanity and address human suffering whenever it is found.

With challenges like climate change, rising polarization, declining trust in multilateralism, erosion of international humanitarian law, our world has come under enormous stress and humanitarian work is becoming more dangerous and complex. The very essence of humanitarianism is now under threat. Despite these challenges, we have grown stronger over

time and closer to the people we serve. We have no other agenda other than saving lives and delivering the basics of life like food, water, shelter, medicine and protection to the most vulnerable. In the delivery of such services, we are guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence.

Climate change is now a key driver of needs in the Horn of Africa region and threatens to reverse hard-earned development gains in many sectors including agriculture, livelihoods and environment. That is why our being here today to plant trees means a lot to me personally. Prevention and mitigation efforts can help us to avoid additional humanitarian needs and crises in the future.

The climate crisis doesn't affect everyone equally. People in vulnerable communities around the world are affected disproportionately. The elderly, the sick, the disabled and those with little or no income are normally the most affected by crises including the negative impact of climate change.

I am very proud to be part of this exercise today. I applaud the initiative the Eritrean Government has put in place to make the environment green. I applaud what young Eritreans have been doing recently in the just concluded summer programme where several thousand trees were planted, and older trees maintained by young people across the country.



This is a major contribution whose positive impact will be felt for years to come and is a positive example that we can be proud of and share with other countries of what we can do if we involve communities.

I want to thank the Government of the State of Eritrea for its commitment, demonstrated today by the way in which this event was organized jointly with OCHA in the presence of her Honorable Minister. This is a testament to our extraordinary cooperation and the Country's commitment to multilateralism. We are at a pivotal moment where our joint work is needed to promote the Sustainable Development Goals and build a life of dignity for all. And, working together in the best way possible we can build a better future for the good and honorable people of Eritrea, and humanity at large. We are happy as United Nations to accompany Eritrea in this journey.

*I thank you
18 August 2023*

ADS

Invitation for Bids

Massawa, Eritrea
21 August, 2023

Re: Supply of 26 canoes for inland fishing groups, MMR/FReMP/G/NCB/G30/2023

1. The Ministry of Marine Resources of the State of Eritrea has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of *Fisheries Resources Management Programme (FReMP)* and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with *Fisheries Resources Management Programme (FReMP)*.

2. The Fisheries Resources Management Programme is under implementation starting from 2017 and expected to phase out by the year 2023 by design and may be extended till Dec 2024 as official request by the GoSE is in process. The Programme will contribute to the development goal of "increased household food and nutrition security and the alleviation of rural poverty". The Programme development objective is "increased incomes and improved nutrition situation for targeted beneficiaries and sustainable management of natural resources". In pursuit of this objective, FReMP will support the marine and inland small scale fisheries to produce a surplus within the maximum sustainable yield of the fisheries and forge sustainable partnership linkages with various actors along the fish production and marketing channel. The aim will be to transform the small scale fisheries sector in Eritrea from subsistence to a sustainable commercial sector.

2. This invitation for bids (IFB) follows the general procurement notice that appeared in newspaper on **13 June, 2023**, on the United Nations Development Business website (UNDB) on **7 June, 2023**.

3. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities (bidders) for the provision of 26 canoes for inland fishing groups and the delivery period is within Three (03) months after contract signing. More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in the bid document.

4. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully carry out the procurement.

5. Bidding will be conducted using the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in the bid document, in accordance

with the IFAD Procurement Handbook which is provided at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The NCB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

6. Please note that a pre-bid conference will not be held as described in the bid data sheet (BDS), Section III of the bid document.

7. Bid document can be obtained by sending an e-mail or letter, giving full contact details of the bidder, to the following point of contact. This will ensure that the bidders receive updates regarding the bid document.

The State of Eritrea

Ministry of Marine Resources

Fisheries Resources Management Programme (FReMP)

Address: Ministry of Marine Resources Head Quarter (Ex- college of Marine Science and Technology)

Tele No: +291-1-541239/540036/540053, P.o.box: 27

E-mail: fremnpnc@gmail.com/frempprourement@gmail.com

Fax number: 291-1-540036/540081

Massawa, Eritrea

8. Bids must be delivered to the address and in the manner specified in the bid data sheet – instructions to bidders 23.2, no later than **19 September, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.**

9. Bidders shall be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstance and will be returned unopened at the written request and cost of the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a bid-securing declaration.

10. Please note that electronic bids shall not be accepted.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Negasi

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Massawa, Eritrea



Henok Mulubrhan's Cycling Triumph

Sabrina Solomon

Henok, please update us on your journey since our last interview.

My journey has been marked by unceasing training with my team in Italy, combined with rigorous

Eritrea, a trailblazing nation in the world of cycling, has seen its cycling legends rise to conquer the global stage. Today, we're thrilled to bring you another interview with the remarkable Henok Mulubrhan, a cycling champion whose remarkable feats continue to captivate the world. At 23 years of age, he has once again demonstrated his prowess, achieving exceptional results in cycling competitions held in China and Rwanda. With multiple medals under his belt, Henok's relentless dedication and hard work continue to propel him to new heights.



accident that led to a week-long hospital stay.

Indeed, that's accurate. An accident occurred in Italy, requiring hospitalization due to a back injury. The setback disrupted my training routine, and the frustration of being confined to a hospital bed while unable to train was immense. However, my teammates provided unwavering support, offering hope. I recuperated and returned to the track swiftly.

What lies ahead for Henok?

My current team contract concludes by year-end. I'm already contemplating offers from major world tour teams, and the anticipation is exhilarating. To be the best, one must emulate the best. Excelling at this level demands more than mere aspiration; it necessitates unwavering commitment. My upbringing in a self-reliant, morally robust nation spurs me onward. I aspire to make my nation proud and carve a legacy in the cycling realm. The best is yet to come.



local training whenever I'm back home. I've actively participated in numerous competitions. This

ventured to China for the Qungay Lake Cycling Competition. As my current team contract nears

fully satisfied. I recognize I could have achieved more, especially during the Eritrean Cycling Championship where I landed in third place, missing an opportunity for a better result. Anticipating the May competition, I trained rigorously in Eritrea, preparing for both the Eritrean Championship and Giro D'Italia. I'm determined to build on my preparations and innate talent this year.

So, the green shirt, tell us more.

Absolutely. My aim during the tour of Qungay Lake was to secure the coveted yellow shirt. Yet, I earned the green shirt thanks to the points accrued from previous competitions. These points acted as placeholders, granting me more time to strive for the yellow shirt. I was pleasantly surprised and elated to receive the green shirt. However, the challenge lies in retaining it. The heartache of losing a shirt is profound. To safeguard my achievement, I pushed myself beyond limits – a journey that continues.

How did fans react to your

triumph?

Cycling consumes my energy, commitment, and emotions. I've poured my heart into it, shedding blood, sweat, and tears for my goals. This competition marked a first for me. Winning a green or yellow shirt, along with a stage name, is monumental. Thus, I received an outpouring of well-wishes from various clubs and fellow cyclists. The success I attained in China remains etched in my memory. The global support and inspiration I received propelled me forward.

Your team exhibited extraordinary performance. What teamwork and strategies played a role?

Our team, "Green Project," epitomizes unity and harmony. We approached the competition as a unified force. Though two members faced health-related setbacks, we persevered. My success is intrinsically linked to the collective efforts of the team. Our discipline and relentless work ethic propelled us in the competitions. I'm profoundly grateful to my teammates.

I heard about your training

Thank you.



year, I secured victory in the African Cycling Championship and the Tour de Rwanda,

its end, I'm receiving offers to join various world tour teams, with decisions pending as the



amassing 200 UCI points, culminating in a total of 861.75 points from various events. Following the Giro D'Italia, I returned to Eritrea and clinched a Bronze medal in the Eritrean Cycling Championship. I also

year concludes.

Are you satisfied with your performance in the competitions thus far?

To be honest, I'm not

